

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA  
NINETY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SESSION  
**LEGISLATIVE BILL 653**

Introduced by Bruning, 3

Read first time January 19, 1999

Committee: Education

A BILL

- 1 FOR AN ACT relating to mentoring; to adopt the Nebraska Youth
- 2 Mentoring Act; and to state intent relating to
- 3 appropriations.
- 4 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1           Section 1.     Sections 1 to 7 of this act shall be known  
2 and may be cited as the Nebraska Youth Mentoring Act.

3           Sec. 2.     The Legislature finds:

4           (1) The Nebraska Youth Mentoring Act is a comprehensive  
5 program to increase Nebraska's collective capacity for youth  
6 mentoring in Nebraska;

7           (2) The act will expand and promote successful youth  
8 mentoring and skill-building programs which provide effective  
9 mentoring services to young people in the state who are at risk for  
10 alcohol and other drug use, teen pregnancy, school failure or  
11 dropping out of school, and juvenile delinquency;

12          (3) The act will provide the necessary resources to  
13 expand these and similar recognized programs and to create new  
14 youth mentoring programs; and

15          (4) The goal of the act is to establish at least ten  
16 thousand new, sustained mentoring relationships by December 31,  
17 2003.

18          Sec. 3.     For purposes of the Nebraska Youth Mentoring  
19 Act, mentoring means a structured relationship pursuant to an  
20 approved mentoring program (1) between a youth and an adult who  
21 offers support, guidance, and education and (2) which shall not  
22 replace or substitute for parental authority and support but shall  
23 augment existing parental and community supports available to the  
24 youth.

25          Sec. 4.     The State Board of Education shall implement the  
26 Nebraska Youth Mentoring Act. The board shall:

27          (1) Assist with the creation and ongoing support of  
28 recognized youth mentoring programs and networks;

1           (2) Annually distribute funds appropriated to the board  
2 by the Legislature to carry out this act as grants to youth  
3 mentoring programs and community or multi-community youth mentoring  
4 networks according to the following guidelines:

5           (a) Receipt of grants is contingent upon program  
6 implementation of recognized quality standards that promote youth  
7 skill-building and safety, mentor training and competence, and  
8 overall program success; and

9           (b) Recipients shall track, monitor, and evaluate the  
10 youth mentoring programs according to standards approved by the  
11 board and shall submit results to the board annually;

12           (3) Provide funding and support for a youth mentoring web  
13 page, a youth mentoring program directory, a youth mentoring  
14 database and library, and youth mentor training;

15           (4) Annually report to the Governor and the Legislature  
16 on programs pursuant to this act;

17           (5) Assign responsibility to educational service units to  
18 develop a mentor training program for approval by the board; and

19           (6) Promote support among state agency directors for  
20 state employees to become involved as volunteer mentors.

21           Sec. 5. The Nebraska State Patrol shall provide state  
22 screening and state criminal history record information checks on  
23 volunteer mentors at no cost to the youth mentoring program or  
24 regional or community youth mentoring network.

25           Sec. 6. The Legislature finds that outstanding volunteer  
26 and mentor service should be encouraged and recognized. For that  
27 purpose, the Governor is authorized to provide an award, to be  
28 known as the Governor's Award for Excellence in Volunteer and

1 Mentor Service, to recognize outstanding volunteer or mentor  
2 service for each fiscal year beginning with fiscal year 1999-2000.  
3 The State Board of Education shall transmit a final list of  
4 nominees to the Governor for his or her consideration.

5           Sec. 7.     The State Board of Education shall adopt and  
6 promulgate rules and regulations to carry out the Nebraska Youth  
7 Mentoring Act.

8           Sec. 8.     It is the intent of the Legislature to annually  
9 appropriate \$2,200,000 to the State Board of Education to carry out  
10 the Nebraska Youth Mentoring Act. These funds shall be distributed  
11 to applicants and educational service units by the State Board of  
12 Education.